

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9516

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IR, TU, EGEN

SUBJ: PRESIDENT KORUTURK'S VISIT TO IRAN JUNE 2-7

1. TURKISH PRESS HAS REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON PRESIDENT KORUTURK'S VISIT TO TEHRAN. PRESS GIVES GREATEST ATTENTION TO THE ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN SIGNED WHICH, HOWEVER, ARE REGARDED IN A REALISTIC LIGHT AS NOT CONCEDED MUCH TO TURKEY.

2. DETAILS AVAILABLE IN THE PRESS INDICATE THAT THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED ON JUNE 6 IS AN ATTEMPT TO FORMALIZE JOINT IRANIAN-TURKISH ECONOMIC PROJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION FOR YEARS. THESE INCLUDE CALLS FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, TOURISM, INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES, COMMERCE AND ENERGY. AGREEMENT CALLS FOR IRAN TO MAKE LOANS "UNDER THE MOST FAVORABLE CONDITIONS" FOR THE MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF TURKISH PORT FACILITIES AT TRABZON, SAMSUN AND ISKENDERUM AND TRANSIT ROAD FACILITIES ACROSS TURKEY TO IRAN. AGREEMENT ALSO CALLS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE TO MEET WITHIN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS TO DRAW UP A NEW TRANSIT AGREEMENT, TO STUDY IMPORT OPPORTUNITIES IN IRAN FOR TURKISH MEAT PRODUCTS AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF IRAN PROVIDING SOME OF TURKEY'S NEEDS IN

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PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS.

3. OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL INTERPRETATIONS OF THE AGREEMENTS WITH IRAN VARY FROM OPTIMISTIC TO PESSIMISTIC. THIS DUALISM IS PERHAPS BEST SUMMED UP IN MASS CIRCULATION "HURRIYET'S" SUNDAY HEADLINE WHICH PROCLAIMED "THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAYS 'THIS IS THE BEST AGREEMENT WE EVER SIGNED', BUT WE GAVE IRAN TOO MUCH AND RECEIVED TOO LITTLE." TURKISH LEFT, IN THE PERSON OF MEHMET ALI AYBAR, LEADER OF THE NEWLY FORMED TURKISH SOCIALIST PARTY, ALLEGED THAT THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED AGREEMENTS WERE "IN REALITY A STEP TO EXPAND THE AMERICAN HEGEMONY IN THE AREA." LEFT CENTER "CUMHURRIYET" COMMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH IRAN APPEARS UNWILLING TO HAVE CLOSER ECONOMIC TIES AND PROJECTS WITH TURKEY, THE CLOSE TIES THAT BOTH IRAN AND TURKEY HAVE WITH EUROPE SHOULD LEAD TO CLOSER RELATIONS IN THE FIELDS OF TRANSPORTATION AND TOURISTIC RELATIONS. MEHMET BARLAS IN "GUNAYDIN" PERHAPS BEST SUMMARIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ECONOMIC AGREEMENT BY PLACING THE KORUTURK VISIT IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF TURKEY'S GRADUAL ATTEMPTS TO SHIFT SOME OF ITS EMPHASIS FROM THE WEST TO THE SOUTH AND EAST. TO BARLAS, IF TURKISH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE CAN MAKE USE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES NEWLY OPENED, THE PRESIDENT'S IRANIAN VISIT MAY HAVE INITIATED A NEW ERA IN TURKEY'S FOREIGN RELATIONS WITH IRAN.

4. TURKISH PRESS SEEMS TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT THE NATURAL GAS PIPELINE FROM IRAN, INVOLVING A BELGIAN-AMERICAN GROUP, WILL NOT GO THROUGH TURKEY. SOME NEWSPAPERS HAVE MADE AN UNFAVORABLE COMPARISON, HOWEVER, HERE BETWEEN TURKISH-IRAQI ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND TURKISH-IRANIAN RELATIONS. ONE PROMINENT COMMENTATOR BLUNTLY STATED THAT THERE IS MORE ECONOMIC FUTURE IN IRAQ SINCE IT DEPENDS EQUALLY ON TRANSIT ROUTES THROUGH TURKEY BUT HAS FEWER ECONOMIC OUTLETS THAN IRAN.

5. EMB OFFICERS EXPECT TO BE BRIEFED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS AND WILL REPORT FURTHER DETAILS LATER.  
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## Message Attributes

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